tribal youth, female adolescents, youth with disabilities and victims of trafficking, orphans etc., please give details?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has recognized youth belonging to the age group of 13-19, which is a major part of the adolescent age group, as a separate constituency. Further, the Ministry is implementing a 100% central sector scheme of financial assistance for the Development and Empowerment of Adolescents.

(c) Yes, Sir. Apart from various schemes of the Ministries of Women & Child Development, Health and Family Welfare and Social Justice and Empowerment for out of school girls and female adolescents, destitute women (including victims of trafficking), adolescent health, persons with disabilities (including youth) etc., due representation is accorded in the youth related programmes of this Ministry to tribals, out of school youth, under privileged sections of society, including SCs and STs, and women. The Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, an autonomous organization of the Ministry, works for the empowerment, welfare and development of rural youth through its large network of Nehru Yuva Kendras in the country.

Encouragement for games like football and volleyball

1792. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to encourage and find talent for games like football and volleyball;

(b) if so, the steps that are being taken to extend assistance directly to educational institutions to foster talent;

(c) the steps proposed by Government to find ways to encourage talent;

(d) whether Government have plans to extend financial assistance for this proposal to encourage popular and low-cost games like football and volleyball; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The development of sports, including the scouting

and nurturing of talent in various sports disciplines, is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments and the National Sports Federation (NSF) concerned. However, the Government of India supplements the efforts of the NSFs in various sports disciplines, including football and volleyball, by providing financial assistance for purchase of equipment, scientific support and training by Indian and foreign coaches, participation in international events abroad, holding of international & national tournaments in the country, sending teams abroad for training-cum-participation in international tournaments etc.

(b) to (e) Till 1.4.2005, Government of India, under the scheme for Grants to Rural Schools for Purchase of Sports Equipments and Development of Playfields was giving assistance directly to schools situated in rural areas, and also to colleges and universities directly for non consumable sports equipments and sports infrastructure. Both these sub-schemes have been transferred to the State sector with effect from 1.4.2005.

However, Government of India is implementing various other schemes to provide incentives for the promotion of sports activities and assistance to sportspersons. These include schemes for assistance through the Sports Authority of India for organizing tournaments at various levels under the 'Rural Sports Programme' and 'Promotion of Sports and Games in Schools', the scheme for pensions to meritorious sportspersons/ medal-winners in international events after their retirement from active sports career through the Sports Fund, assistance to sportspersons of yesteryear living in indigent conditions through the National Welfare Fund, and assistance to promising sportspersons through the National Sports Development Fund.

Nehru Yuva Kendras

†1793. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Nehru Yuva Kendras are being considered as insignificant and useless now;

(b) if not, the reasons for not achieving the target of setting up at least one Kendra in each district;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.